

# MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN

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Fertilizing a Twenty-five-Acre Meadow.  
You ask my opinion concerning the best fertilizer for a grass crop on an interval farm. With the meadow a couple of hundred miles beyond sight, I hardly care to take the responsibility of giving advice, but will make a few suggestions. Whatever fertilizer is applied I would suggest harrowing in most thoroughly, using a wheel harrow. Ploughing it under would carry it so deep that the young grass roots could not feed upon it.

The composition and quantity of the fertilizer to be applied would depend in part on the natural quality of the soil. On upland loam, for grass, I should want to apply a fertilizer containing as high as five per cent. of nitrogen, half to be in the form of nitrate of soda and the remainder in blood, or fish or cottonseed, and such as is found in dissolved bone. If nitrate of soda cannot be obtained (and I know that the recent loss of three thousand tons in transit has created a great shortage), then I should substitute blood or fish. If, on the other hand, the soil is alluvial, such as we find along river banks, or is reclaimed from drained swamps, I should be inclined to reduce the nitrogen in the fertilizer to three per cent.

Of phosphoric acid I should want about eight per cent. of soluble. We can procure acid from the phosphoric rock of the South basic slag-bone, but in either case I should want it in the soluble form, as they cannot be relied upon unless they have been subjected to treatment by sulphuric acid.

All three would ultimately become soluble in the soil, but we have but a theory to guide us, while the meadow grass crop grows hungry for it. Still, if the land is to remain in grass several years it would be wise, because economical, to depend on the basic slag for as much as half of the phosphoric acid needed, because it is one of the very cheapest sources of supply and would become to a large per cent. available after the first season—that which exists in dissolved bone being the dependence in the early stage of growth. The bone having been treated by acid makes the nitrogen in its composition (about three per cent. of available) which otherwise could not be relied upon up to its full percentage, the first season.

The percentage of potash needed in any fertilizer is the most uncertain of the three elements, for the quantity available varies in different soils. The German marlate would be our cheapest resource for this, though that obtained from wood ashes is not very dear and is generally assumed, for much of it being caustic acts chemically on the plant food latent in all farming soils and makes it available.

The general objection against using wood ashes is their unavailability, and this is well taken, for within a year I had these vary from 3.68 to 8.15 per cent. in potash; but by purchasing them on a warrant as to the percentage they shall contain the objection is removed.

One might buy the three elements in the market and so mix his own fertilizer, as I have done with hundreds of tons for my own use. In such case he should not use wood ashes in the mixture, but apply it separately, as it would set free the nitrogen in all the sources named, except the nitrate of soda.

As to the quantity of such a fertilizer as I have described to be applied per acre, I would suggest eight hundred pounds. If this should be in excess of the wants of the grass crop the phosphoric acid and potash left over would not waste but remain in the soil available until used.

It is rather dangerous business to endorse the fertilizer of any manufacturer, for under the same name I have found a fertilizer vary in the degree of availability of its three elements, though the percentage of each remained constant. My experience with those manufactured by the Bradley Company has always been satisfactory. Some seasons I have used on our seed farm over sixty tons of several manufacturers, including Bradleys. J. J. H. GREGORY, Marblehead, Mass.

Fruit Should Bring Fair Prices.  
Although the season has been comparatively dry, and the springs and streams suffering from drought, yet we have had enough showers to give ample surface moisture, so that all crops have been in a healthy growing condition during the entire season.

The completion of the hay harvest shows the crop to be of good quality, a full average on quality, but as to quantity there seems to be quite a difference, some reporting a crop fully equal to last year, and others

reporting a shortage, the true facts would seem to be that fields in good condition by fertilization gave a full average crop, while fields not under so good cultivation gave reduced yields.

Potatoes are looking well, and unless blight strikes the crop there will be a fair yield. No blight has appeared as yet, but the present humid, muggy atmosphere is quite conducive to its appearance. Corn was backward the early part of the season, but the last three weeks it has developed wonderfully, and now promises a heavy yield. Probably two-thirds of the acreage raised here is for the silo.

The fruit prospect as to apples is from forty to fifty per cent., but the redeeming feature is that our product is principally Baldwin, and so far as I can learn there is not over twenty-five per cent. of Baldwin in the principal apple-producing sections, and as our crop is of good quality it ought to give us good money.

Peaches are a good crop, and promise well, and as the Southern crop is out of the way, and Jersey and Delaware crops are shy, September and October offerings of Northern grown peaches should command good prices. No sales of early peaches have been made yet under \$1.50 for half-bushel basket. F. C. R. Hampshire County, Mass.

Pickling Cucumbers.  
In making pickles the cucumbers should be treated several days with a strong brine, which will draw the water out of the cucumbers, which water will be replaced with vinegar. The cucumber is nearly all water, and if the vinegar is not acid enough the water will weaken the vinegar so that it will not be so good as an antiseptic. It can be improved by a handful of fresh clove or allspice thrown on the top. This spice contains an aromatic oil which floats on the pickle and acts as an antiseptic which will help weak vinegar in saving the pickles.

I hope no one will believe the story that strong vinegar will eat up the pickles. The story is often told by some who ought to know better. To convince a prominent dealer of the fallacy of such talk, I placed a pickle in a cask No. 8—about thirty-five per cent.—pure acetic acid, and placed it on the deck of the steamer. It convinced him that strong vinegar would not eat pickles, as vinegar contains only three to six per cent. of the acid. A. P. SHARP, Maryland.

Haying Delayed in Vermont.  
Hay is not all secured yet, there is more than an average crop. The weather has been catching and the farmers are short of help, which shortage has become a serious question. Corn is making a good growth but a week late; cool nights all summer except July 2-30 all crops are good growth, no drought. Pastures are fresh, stock is looking well.

Apples have fallen badly especially late varieties and will be a light crop. Orange County, Vt., Aug. 12. W. F. DEWEY.

A Tomato Harvest.  
As the season of the ripening of the tomatoes draws near, the producer must have on hand a supply of packages for the handling of his crop. These, of course, must be suitable for the market for which the tomatoes are intended. If intended for the early market or local retail trade, baskets will be chiefly used. If for the canning factory or disposal in large quantities, bushel crates or boxes will be required. When placing fruit upon the markets, the returns will, in a large measure, depend on the amount of skill and intelligence exhibited by the picker and the packer in putting up the goods.

All fruit if properly packed will be of uniform size and ripeness. All blemished or ill-shaped specimens should be discarded. Place the fruit in the basket with the stem end down, wipe all soiled tomatoes and finish off with a smooth and level surface. If the fruit is thus put up in a neat clean basket, fruit uniform, bright and clean, and tastefully packed, the possibility of making a good bargain with the consumer is far greater than would be possible where as good a quality of fruit was offered dumped into the baskets any old way to get the baskets full. W. E. A. PEER, Ontario, Canada.

Opinions on Farm Fairs.  
Some very pretty and practical views on the subject of agricultural fairs have been brought out as a result of inquiries sent by Commissioner A. W. Gilman of Maine to representative farmers of the State. A number of significant opinions from these replies are quoted below:

Keep out gambling and everything that would have a tendency to demoralize.—S. F. Emerson, Somerset County, Me.

Judges should be selected because of their knowledge of the subject, not on account of a pull.—John L. Chase, Cumberland County, Me.

The practice of giving the greater portion of the receipts to horse trotting is wrong, the farmer should have his half at least.—P. M. Austin, Androscoggin County, Me.

I would do away with all fairs and chance games, so that when we got our boys through the gates and turned them loose with a little money in their pockets we should feel safe in regard to them.—D. A. Pratt, Aroostook County, Me.

Some exhibitors do not understand how to fix up an exhibit. If they would take more pains and study this work and ask questions of the judges they might learn some valuable points to help out on the next fair.—A. A. Eastman, Penobscot County, Me.

It is a mistake to think that a fair can be

run without any fairs or horse trots. We must have those things to help make up a good fair, but I do not believe in any immoral fairs or horse trots. Such things should be kept out of the grounds and good order maintained.—A. A. Eastman, Penobscot County, Me.

I have been interested in fairs for a number of years, as a director, also president, and I find them a hard thing to govern, for the people generally want something for amusement, and the more hawkers and fairs they can have to Jew them, the better it seems to suit them.—U. M. Lancaster, Sacandaga County, Me.

Of what use is it for a person to try to judge fruit who does not know a summer apple from a winter one, as I have known to be done, the first prize on Greenings being given to a Pumpkin Sweet. It is this kind of work that is ruining the fairs of today. Let there be a good, impartial

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run without any fairs or horse trots. We must have those things to help make up a good fair, but I do not believe in any immoral fairs or horse trots. Such things should be kept out of the grounds and good order maintained.—A. A. Eastman, Penobscot County, Me.

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## Dairy.

## Stock and Dairy Notes.

Bull calves should be castrated when about one month old. If much older the animal receives more of a shock by the operation.

Cross-bred sires should never be used, as they are very likely to reproduce the worst faults of both families. By using a pure bull an inferior herd will be vastly improved in a few years. It is not sufficient, however, to have purity of blood alone, for the bull's ancestors must have been good butter producers.

A cow of about one thousand pounds weight can eat one hundred pounds of grass or its equivalent per day, and it takes sixty pounds of that to keep up the system, that is, the temperature and repair waste of tissue which is consequently taking place. It is only what is eaten over that sixty pounds which goes to produce profit in the form of either meat or milk. Then if a cow only gets eighty pounds of feed she is only producing half the profit she is capable of. From this it will be seen that the necessity for providing abundance of feed in some form or other, and the folly of keeping more cattle than can be fully fed.

A bull should be taught to lead by a ring in his nose before he is a year old, and when turned a year old may be allowed to serve a few heifers. He should always be in good condition, and this applies to all young stock. They should never be allowed to fall low in condition, or they receive a check from which they never recover. Bulls, when required for service (and this applies to sires of all classes) should be liberally fed on food rich in protein, such as clover and bran.

The cow should be raised immediately after calving to prevent straining, and this too may be stopped by injecting carbolic oil and lanolin into the womb. If she is much exhausted, a bottle of wine or beer or a quarter pint of spirits may be given and repeated in twelve hours if necessary. Should the afterbirth not come away, liquid extract of ergot should be given in one-half ounce or one-ounce doses in warm gruel. A "cleansing" drench—one pound Epsom salts, two ounces sulphur, and one ounce ginger—may also be given. The womb should be irrigated or flushed by means of a piece of one-half inch rubber hose about four feet long, to which a funnel is attached, using a solution of Lysol (two parts Lysol in one hundred parts warm water). It is always wise to flush the womb with this solution, and wash the hind quarters with the same.

An English dairy writer gives the following unique method of ascertaining as to whether or not a cow is with calf—"The cow to be tested is milked separately and as soon as possible after the milk is drawn we dip a straw or timothy stem in the bucket of milk. Have a glass of pure water at hand and allow one drop of the milk to fall in the water—only one; if the milk quickly dissipates and renders the water murky, the cow is not in calf, but if the milk drop sinks to the bottom of the glass before mixing with the water, she is pregnant. If you are not sufficiently expert take the milk of another cow that has newly calved, and pursue the same treatment with both at the same time and you will not fail to note the difference in the way the drop of milk will mix with the water. I have practiced this method of determining pregnancy in my herd for years and have never known it to fail." This is simplicity itself, and it won't cost much to try it.

## Drying Off Cows.

As a general rule, especially in the milk trade, we want our cows to milk as long as possible, even up to the next calving time, but in many instances, we want the cows to dry off as quickly as possible at about a given date. This is not always easy of accomplishment, for some will persist in yielding a dribble, which must be drawn now and again to prevent spoiling. Of course, one method is to reduce the food ration; hay and water only, and not too much of these, will bring the results about in time, while leaving the animals unmilked as long as they can stand it will also help. A French method has lately been tested with success. This is to dose the cow or cows with alum, in addition to reducing the fare and ceasing to milk. The usual method is to give half an ounce in a quart of water on alternate days for about a week, accompanied, of course, with lowered rations and non-milking.

## Literature.

## THE WEIRD PICTURE.

John R. Carling, an English writer, gave us "The Shadow of the East" a few years ago and we have read with interest the book that followed. Last year it was "The Viking's Skull," and now comes "The Weird Picture," in which the author has chosen a rather new and startling theme. This new book is the story of the havoc wrought by the realistic work of a fronted artist. It opens with the return of Frank Willard, a student in Heidelberg, to London for the purpose of attending the wedding of his brother. But the ceremony did not take place and the bridegroom failed to appear. It subsequently develops that George Willard was murdered. Frank, it appears, had been in love with Daphne Leslie, the comely young woman who was to have been the bride, and his affection for the girl increased as he was thrown more and more in her company after the ill-fated Christmas Day when the scheduled wedding had to be indefinitely postponed. But Daphne had another admirer, an artist named Angelo Vasari, whose actions later became as queer as his work was realistic. On occasions he disguised himself in female attire, and again he did not hesitate to follow the example of Giotto, who stabbed his living model on the cross that he might paint a crucified Christ, only the subject of Vasari's painting was "The Fall of Caesar." In his mad career, with his disappointment in not being able to secure the affections of Daphne, the painter was about to add to his list of victims Frank Willard, who is the narrator of the tale, when help arrives and the artist, now hopelessly insane, meets a deserved fate. But the gruesomeness of the story is barely suggested by this slight outline of the plot. Mr. Carling keeps his mystery from the reader's solution until he is ready for the denouement, and by that time the reader is worked up to a pitch of excitement which is only satisfied by ascertaining how it all ends. "The Weird Picture" will supplant the old-fashioned ghost story for something to read at the midnight hour. It can not be said, however, that Mr. Carling has produced an appealing novel as "The Shadow of the East." (Boston: Little, Brown & Co. Price, \$1.50.)

MRS. JIM AND MRS. JIMMIE.

About a year ago there was published a book entitled "The Second Mrs. Jim," that

gave us a pleasing pen picture of the ideal stepmother. The book was both ingenious and clever. The idea of a stepmother for a heroine was a new one, but it was the author's gift of humor that made the story so readable. Now Stephen Conrad has written a sequel in which the second Mrs. Jim relates the town gossip to Mrs. Jimmie—the wife of her stepson. Were she not so good hearted and always looking on the sunny side of life, the second Mrs. Jim would be termed a garrulous old gossip. As it is we are able to endure and enjoy her monologues—for she seldom permits her audience to inject a word. She deals first with the observation of "children's day" at the local church. A parrot belonging to the saloon-keeper of the village played an important part at this event. One of the juvenile speakers jostled the green bird with the result that there followed a string of all the oaths that the parrot had heard during its daily sojourn in the town saloon. "The preacher in the front seat leaned back in holy horror," according to Mrs. Jim's account of the affair, while the face of the saloon-keeper Johnson "got as red as his tie, and the boys in the congregation were all one broad grin. The preacher and Johnson started for the platform at the same time, and ran into each other. Johnson climbed over the preacher and tried to take down the cage, but it was wired fast, and the parrot reached through the wires and nipped his fingers. He tried to beat the parrot at swearing, but the bird started up again, and the man didn't have a ghost of a show!" It was such doings as these in the church that led Mr. and Mrs. Martin, two of the veteran members, to seek Mrs. Jim's advice one day in regard to withdrawing. They not only objected to such new-fangled doings as "Children's days," but they said they did not receive enough preaching from the minister. As Mr. Martin expressed it to Mrs. Jim: "I counted up how much the preacher has to preach now, with this new half-hour sermon business and his holidays and it's only about forty-eight hours, less than two days out of the 365." But Mrs. Jim was equal to the



AYRSHIRE COW, IRIS OF THE PLAIN.

occasion, and a well-directed argument convinced the aged couple that they had better remain with the flock. There are twenty-two chapters of Mrs. Jim's talk in the book, and to give a touch of romance to the book the love affairs of Mark Williams, one of the wise men of the village, is threaded through the story. Mrs. Jim's genial character is a delight, but as for Mrs. Jimmie, she figures the most conspicuously in the title of the book. Stephen Conrad has duplicated his success; he has given us another book that is really humorous. (Boston: L. C. Page & Co. Price, \$1.50.)

## THE HUMAN TOUCH.

Described as the tale of the great Southwest "The Human Touch" primarily concerns the love affairs of a man's life. In this case the man is possessed of a strong, passionate nature, which all but causes his ruin. It is the subtle loving heart of a woman that reclaims him and redeems his happiness. The author, Edith M. Nisbald, calls this irresistible affinity that draws him to this strong woman "the human touch." The story opens in New York where David Kingdom, a young cattle king of New Mexico is calling on his old friend Buckley. To

fewer lapses of good English. (Boston: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Company. Price, \$1.50.)

## ITALIAN BACKGROUNDS.

Edith Wharton knows Italy, and she has the ability to paint exquisite word pictures of Italian life and scenery. In "Italian Backgrounds" she conducts us to some of the less-frequented parts of this sunny country and gives us her impressions—descriptions far removed from those which the ordinary tourist imports. Indeed, we know of only one book written of late which excels this one in picturing to us the Italy of today, and that is Maud Howe's "Roma Beata." Mrs. Wharton enters Italy by the way of Switzerland, and this is her comparison between the two countries: "Switzerland is like a dinner served in the old-fashioned way, with all the dishes put on the table at once; every valley has its flowery mead, its 'horrid' gorge, its chamois-haunted peaks, its wood and water-fall. In Italy, the effects are brought on in courses, and the memory is thus able to differentiate the landscapes, even without the help of that touch of human individuality to which, after all, the best Italian scenery is but a

leave that every one should be his or her own beauty-doctor, and she points the way admirably. She gives simple and precise directions whereby one may vastly improve a bad complexion, remove superfluous hairs, reduce materially unnecessary flesh and obliterate wrinkles. At the same time she emphasizes the fact that it takes time to bring about these desirable changes. "Many," she says "undertake baths, massage, physical culture and the like and expect results in a few weeks, but these things must become a part of the daily routine, just as much as dressing. To correct imperfections and maintain healthy conditions, diligence and persistence are demanded. With so much precious advice being passed about it is well to listen to one who is at once practical and endowed with common sense. The present book would therefore seem to supply a need for a popular book on a pertinent subject; one which does not recommend any proprietary preparation in particular but does give tested prescriptions. The 124 illustrations from photographs are extremely helpful. (New York: Frederick A. Stokes & Co. Price, \$1.60 net.)



## GOLD FOX.

A yearling Ayrshire bull of the Pomer herd. A grandson of Lady Fox, whose milk record was 12,299 pounds in one year; 534 pounds of butter.

the latter Kingdom explains his position; his wife is in Europe because she cannot endure the lonely ranch life. With Buckley, Kingdom attends a party and meets Sylvia Newman, a girl of broad education and a great capacity for the "great passion." Thus the mischief begins. Sylvia learns too late for her own comfort that Kingdom is a married man. Possessed of great courage she hides her love when the knowledge comes to her and Kingdom returns to his ranch, conscious only of one thing, namely—he has a wife and to her he must be true. Duty points the way. Here the plot thickens. Kingdom learns that his

setting." One of the many interesting chapters in the book is that which describes "A Tucson Shrine." In an attempt to circumvent the compiler of the guidebook she sought out an obscure monastery located in San Vivaldo, said to contain a series of terra-cotta groups representing the scenes of the Passion. Even Professor Riddell, director of the Royal Museum of Florence, only knew of their existence by hearsay. However, nothing daunted, Mrs. Wharton diligently sought the place, and was not unavowed. Her discovery proved to be an important one, and her account of the event is of deep

The Scouter. A young man was observed not long since trying to make the acquaintance of a young lady during a sudden shower. "Please take my umbrella," he said, as a preliminary bit of conversation. "No, thank you," was the response. "But the rain will ruin your outfit," continued the irrepressible gallant. "Not at all," answered the damsel. "It will make the flowers in my hat grow, though it may dim the brass in your face." The interview then and there ended. At a recent recent the other day an old man entered the dining room, and slowly



## OUIDESSA.

Ayrshire cow, three years old. Milked clean at 6 o'clock. Photograph made at 11 o'clock.

wife has been killed in an accident abroad and the way is open for him to honestly proclaim his love for Sylvia Newman. Then there is a new mistress at the ranch and Kingdom is happy until the blow falls which separates him from Sylvia. She who was supposed to be dead is alive. From this point the story gathers in interest and the climax fulfills the readers' anticipations. Aside from the love interest "The Human Touch" is a vigorous story with much of the desperado life of the wilds of New Mexico depicted. It cannot be said that the author has constructed a remarkably original or happy plot and the story savors of strained endeavors for startling scenes. As a psychological study of human nature it is not a success but as depicting the characters that thrive amid stirring events in a new country it is not without power. It is to be deplored, however, that the author could not have chosen better language, with

interest. But this chapter is only a fair sample of the whole book. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. Price, \$2.50 net.)

## THE FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH.

In these days when every Sunday newspaper contains advice in regard to retaining, recovering or procuring personal beauty, it is well to have at hand a book written by one who is qualified to speak with authority on matters so vital to particular men and women. The author of "The Fountain of Youth" is Grace Peckham Murray, M. D., professor-adjunct in women's diseases of the New York Post-Graduate School and Hospital, and many of the articles have appeared in the *Delineator*. A diligent reading of the various chapters contained in the book will doubtless lead one to make some experiments on one's body, for all of the principal evils that so fret us are set forth. The key-note of the book is self-help. Dr. Murray be-

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putting on his spectacles which he had as slowly extracted from the case proceeded deliberately to scan the menu. It took him some minutes to do this, while the waiter stood expectant of a large order and an accompanying generous fee. The guest finally laid down the elaborate bill of fare, and with the air of a millionaire called for a glass of beer. Only this and nothing more. It is astonishing how much people eat while they are on an outing. In a seat in a trolley car last Friday were three young girls, and the Scouter, who sat behind them could not help wondering how their small stomachs could carry all they devoured from the time the vehicle left Boston until it arrived at Nantasket Beach. Each one ate six peaches, six pears, two bananas, a large slab of sweetened popcorn and at least a pint of peanuts. Then they topped off with the contents of a box of chocolate creams, and when they arrived at the end of the route they were looking for a place where they could get a fish dinner with plenty of clams. Meanwhile they called for three glasses of ice-cream soda, and the Scouter departed from their presence confident that a physician would be called in the next day.

The Scouter has also seen on the excursion boats a similar oration for constantly feeding the face, as the slang term has it, and to this he attributes the sea-sickness that afflicts many women and children, and which makes their neighborhood so repulsive to the excursionist who is in search of a little fresh, uncontaminated air. What enjoyment people get out of making ornaments of themselves no fellow with a normal appetite can find out.

Most of us like to accumulate wealth in anticipation of the proverbial rainy day, but a friend of the Scouter who is piling up dollars far beyond his prospective needs, gave a queer reason for his greed for gold. When he was told that he was foolish to work so hard when he was really in no danger of dying in the poorhouse he answered: "Oh, I want to leave a handsome property for my heirs to quarrel over. The lawyers must live, you know, and I want to encourage their honest industry."

At breakfast the other morning the inevitable lamb chops made their appearance at a summer boarding house, and they were of the forequarter kind that are not very inviting to those that like them from the neighborhood of the leg. A young lady guest who was asked to partake of the persistent viand, exclaimed with some feminine acidity:

"No, if I eat another chop this season I shall be crying 'Ba-a!'"

The Scouter has a friend of unmistakable Milseian origin who bears a resemblance that may be called either Scotch or Irish. He was recently introduced to a brave Highland laddie at a picnic, who said to him:

"You have a fine old Caledonian name, what clan do you belong to?"

"Well," was the response, "my father is a member of the Clan na Gael."

The Scotchman took the joke good naturedly saying: "Ah, we are all Galls, don't you know, when we are not Saxons, like the followers of Fitz James in the poem."

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At a recent recent the other day an old man entered the dining room, and slowly

**CAT FOOD**

At a recent recent the other day an old man entered the dining room, and slowly

## Doultry.

## Drinking Vessel Spreads Disease.

Many poultry keepers make the mistake of using open receptacles, such as an old saucepan or cracked dish, filling it up once a week, and allowing it to be exposed to the sun's rays. This is a serious error. Should a touch of disease appear on the farm, the bird affected naturally drinks a lot, and in so doing leaves the germs of disease behind for the others which follow, and so disease is spread broadcast. I maintain that the sousing of the tins is very essential. No disease spreads so rapidly as by means of infected drinking water. Keep the water cool and absolutely pure.—H. V. Hawkins.

## Practical Duck Feeding.

Where ducks are kept with a view of remuneration, their feeding requires careful study, since upon the food bill much of what should be profit may easily be wasted. One of the first points to bear in mind is that feeding should never be done mechanically, for both the birds and the weather must be carefully watched, and quantity and quality regulated thereby. To supply exactly the same quantity and quality of food per head all the year round, no matter how the rations may be balanced, is not a plan to commend; nor is it a profitable one, either as regards the pocket or the welfare of the stock.

During summer, when the weather is warm and showery, and there is in consequence an abundance of natural food, ducks at liberty require very little food to be given to them. If an artificial supply be provided they will eat it and neglect the natural one, so that it needs a little experience on the part of the duck keeper to tell how much food he should serve out. Again, when the birds are laying they require more food than at other times—that is, when weather conditions balance, which is a factor that must be taken into consideration. The least food is required during warm, showery weather, for the reasons before given, and the most is required when the ground is covered with snow and water surfaces are ice bound, because then practically nothing can be picked up.

Ducks on a good range need no soft food, all that is required being grain, such as wheat, barley, oats and maize. For general use wheat and oats cannot be improved upon, and barley and maize come in useful for cold weather. The birds should be allowed to eat early in the morning and fastened up at dusk. During normal weather they will not require any breakfast, but should have supper just before being confined for the night. In unsuitable weather a good breakfast should be supplied directly the birds are let out in the morning. As a rule, they require a small handful of grain daily, but as before observed, the quantity should be governed by circumstances.

The problem ever in front of the feeder is how to successfully gauge the exact quantity required, so as neither to pinch the birds nor swell the food bill unnecessarily. Where the ducks have a limited range, soft food should be given for breakfast, and grain for supper. Very many mixtures of food are advocated for duck feeding, and this is apt to bewilder the beginner. The best plan is to start with some fairly simple mixture, and should it not give satisfaction after a fair trial, to do a little experimenting until the mixture to suit the special conditions of the keeper is discovered. One duck keeper recommends a certain mixture, another something different. Both may be right as far as their own stock are concerned, for, after all, the details of management, all affect the stock more or less. A good mixture to begin with is ground oats and sharp in equal quantities, to which is added a little biscuit meal and pressed or granulated meat. It should be prepared with boiling water, and served before quite cold, and made crumbly, not sloppy. Many of the prepared foods and meals on the market are exceedingly good as food for ducks, but generally speaking, are a trifle more expensive than ordinary fare.

Ducks that have not access to grass require as much green stuff as they will eat. For ordinary use lettuce and cabbage leaves will be found very suitable, and may be given either whole or cut up finely, otherwise the birds will not be able to pull them apart, as they will do when the leaves are given in a whole state.

Grit is required by ducks just the same as other fowls. Flint should be given all the year round, and oyster shell during the laying season. The grit may be either thrown into shallow water or placed in a small trough filled with water. If given dry, as to fowls, the ducks drop it about a good deal.—Lewiston Journal.

## Borticultural.

## A Veteran Apple Man's Experience.

I almost envy the man who has a fine young orchard just coming into bearing, composed of from two to four of the best market varieties, because it has been my lot to take up the care for the most part of orchards that were old and started until, as I now believe, some of the trees died for lack of food, and the names of the varieties that have come under my care have been almost legion, or in other words, the varieties have been so many that I cannot now remember all the names.

If you have not had this experience with a badly mixed orchard, you cannot tell how hard it is to pick fancy fruit from such varieties as the Fall Pippin, Snow Apple, Canada Red, Spitzenburg, and several other varieties that we could name that have been the centre of attack for all the host of plant and insect life which have appeared as enemies of the past, and perhaps friends of the future fruit grower. Indeed we almost despaired until our experiment station friends came forward with Bordeaux mixture, which has been combined with various insecticides until we have been able to almost eradicate some of the pests and have produced good, clean fruit.

In regard to cultivation I have been a friend of the pasturing system for twenty years or more. I was led to adopt this system by observation of orchards that had been pastured for years, and found that they were producing more and better fruit than those that were cultivated.

Now I do not wish to antagonize those who are cultivating their orchards, for I believe that both ways are equally successful, providing we do not rob the trees of their food supply by trying to harvest some other crop than apples from the same soil. But I am continuing to pasture because it seems easier and cleaner for me.

As regards spraying: My experience began twenty-two years ago. Purchasing the farm in Pendell, twenty-three years ago this winter, with what appeared to be a fine orchard of about nine acres, I was horrified the following summer when the canker worm appeared and destroyed all the foliage, and I also found that nearly one-



WHITE WYANDOTTES.

Second prize pen at St. Louis World's Fair, owned, bred and exhibited by J. H. Jackson, Hudson, Mass. This pen also won first prize at Herald Square show, New York, last December.

half of the orchard were poor varieties of sweet apples only fit for hog feed.

Not wishing to go into the pork business, and being in a fighting mood, I cut the sweet trees the following winter and prepared to conquer the canker-worm, which we did by the use of gas tar and soap grease on the tree trunks in the early spring, and Paris green and water sprayed on the foliage in the early summer.

In the early nineties we were compelled to consider the question of spraying because we were hardly able for some years to pack a perfect barrel of apples, and in 1894, I think, I attended and became an annual member of your society, doing from then until now like the sponge when put into water, absorbing all I could, and I assure you, I have profited largely by what has been said here along the line of spraying.

That same spring I equipped myself with a light rig and sprayed my orchard very thoroughly three times, and that season picked as fine fruit as I ever have had. I have sprayed every year since, and a number of times have tried to make less cost by spraying only twice, or using copper sulphate only once or twice, but I think have failed every time to get as good food, and I now think that the only safe way is to spray very thoroughly not less than three times, with Bordeaux mixture, using a good insecticide in the mixture at two of the sprayings. I use arsenic.

I have been experimenting a number of years with storing apples in cellars, in what is known as dry storage, and have had very good results.

I am using a two-bushel open crate that we make. We set the crates in the orchard and have the fruit put in them as it is picked and draw into the fruit house, and tier up, and sort and pack as we market. Our claim for this method is that it saves so much time in the fall, and we are able, by letting the crates stand a few days in the orchard, to give a much higher color to our red fruit.

Monroe County, N. Y.

## Grapes in Cold Climates.

Here in New England we have only a few places that are really practical for the raising of the grape. We want to get an elevated location, as there we do not get the early or late frosts.

The best possible location is a side hill, sloping to the southeast. Care should be taken in the selection of the soil. I have never seen a place too gravelly or sandy for the growth of the grape vine. A dry place just suits the vine. Pruning may be done any time after the leaves fall until April 1. After that time, vines will bleed more or less, which may or may not injure them; but certainly can do them no good.—Mary E. Outler, Middlesex County, Mass.

## Best Apples From the East.

It is worthy of notice that the apples which are of dominant importance in the present day Eastern commercial orchards are of New York and New England origin. Baldwin, Roxbury and Hubbardston come from Massachusetts; Rhode Island Greening, Twenty Guano, Pumpkin Sweet and Westfield Seek-No-Further are from Connecticut. Northern Spy originated in Ontario County, N. Y., from seed brought by settlers from Connecticut. Fall Pippin is probably from Eastern New York, Tompkins King, though it is said to have originated in New Jersey, was first brought to notice in Central New York. Beesop Spitzenburg, Jonathon and Green originated in the Hudson Valley; Green Newton Pippin and Yellow Newton Pippin on Long Island; Early Harvest in Central New York; Yellow Bellflower and Maiden

Blush in New Jersey; Fameuse, McIntosh and St. Lawrence in Canada; Red Astrachan, Alexander, Oldenburg and Gravenstein in Russia or Germany; Blue Pearmain, Black Gilliflower and Golden Russet probably originated in New York or New England. Only one of the list, the Ben Davis, comes from south of Mason and Dixon's line, and this one succeeds better in the South and Southwest than it does in New York.—S. A. Beach, Ontario County, N. Y.

## Success With Blackberries.

The Lawton is, in my opinion, the best of all the blackberries. If rightly grown and picked. This statement is based on an experience with most of the known varieties. My method of culture is first of all to give the soil a thorough deep plowing, and then plant eight feet between the rows, and four feet in the rows.

During the first year they should be thoroughly cultivated and hoed. If a good stand of plants is to be secured there must be no planting of anything between the rows. The next spring, or as nearly as can be, our custom is to cut out the old wood; and as soon as the old soil is dry enough to permit it, we plow between the rows fairly deep, and as close to the plants as possible; then cultivate and hoe thoroughly, continuing to cultivate at intervals of eight or ten days. When the canes are three feet high, cut the tops off so they can branch. The next spring, as early as possible, cut the branches five to ten inches in length according to their growth, and plow and cultivate as before.

It is very essential to be on the watch for the blackberry rust. Therefore I would advise going through the patch early in the season repeating the inspection three or four times. If affected plants are dug out before blossoming, they may be left in the row, but if permitted to blossom before being removed they must be carried away and burned. This is very important. Should the picking season be a dry one, the soil should be stirred very lightly.—Stephen Stone, Monroe County, N. Y.

## Curious Facts.

—Horses in their wild state live to the age of thirty-six normally, being still fairly robust and hearty at that age in the present day.

—The largest insect known to entomologists is a Central American moth, called the Erobus striz, which expands its wings from eleven inches to eighteen inches.

—The pine needles of South Oregon are being utilized, says the New York Evening Post. The needles are first boiled and then run between horizontal wooden rollers, which extract the juice. This is called pine needle oil, which is supposed to possess medical properties. The pulp is used as a medicated material for upholstery, and is also said to be a good substitute for horsehair. It is said that insect pests will not live in furniture that has been upholstered with pine needles.

—An orange hit in the arched centre by a rifle ball will vanish at once from sight, scattered into innumerable pieces.

—Vines have been taken of the orchards of Meera, Miller and Fancella, in the vicinity of Rodney, W. Va., to be shown at the Paris Exposition. These orchards are the largest in the world and contain 25,000 peach and plum trees. The owners planted 100,000 trees last year, and cleared for planting 175 acres of timber land. The first season their orchards began to bear they shipped one hundred carloads of peaches and plums.

—The number of roses seems to be enormous. Fred M. Goodover enumerated 20 species in Europe, the Orient and the Mediterranean basin, two years later adding thirty-five new discoveries in France alone!

—Auriferous dust as to the rate of growth of the human hair, and it is said to be very dissimilar in different individuals. Says the Old Cape Chronicle. The most usually accepted calculation gives 1/2 inches per annum. A man's

hair, allowed to grow to its extreme length, rarely exceeds twelve inches or fourteen inches while that of a woman will grow in rare instances to seventy or seventy-five inches, though the average does not exceed twenty-five to thirty inches.

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## Now We Can Sell this \$47.50 Jump-Seat Buggy for \$34.20

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Price to Members is \$34.20



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This National Jump-Seat Buggy is actually worth \$47.50 and you cannot duplicate it for less anywhere else. It is built for two or four passengers, made of good hickory, and is fully warranted in every particular—quickly changed from a single to a double seat without removing any parts. This is acknowledged to be the most convenient arrangement ever invented. It is very simple, making it possible to instantly change this rig from a two-seated buggy to a really desirable light market wagon—just what every farmer needs. Wheels are all hickory, farnes or solid hard, 15 1/2 inch steel tire. Axle, 1 inch, steel, and mounted to hickory wood, rear king bolt, fifth wheel and double perch coach. Oil-tempered, elliptic springs, strong enough to carry four passengers. Body—white wood and hickory, strongly braced throughout, and full length body loops 40 inches long and 18 inches wide. Cushions—green cloth, leather or imitation leather. Body black with dark green gear, narrow strips, high-grade finish. We are only able to make this remarkable offer by

taking the entire output of the factory, and saving all middlemen's profit—co-operation in this Society cuts out all needless expenses and the National Jump-Seat Buggy at once—\$47.50 is cheap for it. To make the bargain still better, send for an Application Blank, join the Society, and save \$13.30 on this extra saving will pay your membership fee. Hundreds of members have joined the Society without costing them a cent—the savings on their purchases paying the full fee and leaving them a nice profit besides. We solicit you to join the Society now.

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## Our Homes.

## The Workbox.

## PIAZZA WORK.

Use 15 pounds of white three-thread Sax only; one pair bone needles No. 4, one bone crochet hook No. 4.

Cast on a number of stitches divisible by and add 4 stitches to make the shawl 15 yards wide.

1st row—Plain knitting, turn.  
2d row—Plain knitting, turn.  
Repeat these two rows for 5 rows.

6th row—Plain knitting.

7th row—Plain knitting.

Repeat 6th and 7th rows for 5 rows. This makes 5 rows knitting plain, 5 rows seaming.

Repeat these groups until the shawl is as long as wide. In binding off the shawl use a crocheted hook, (\*) bind off 5, drop off a knitted stitch and chain 2. Repeat from (\*) across shawl. These dropped stitches leaving 4 between are to be opened to the length of shawl making an even insertion with long threads across.

The shawl is finished with a tied fringe. Cut 7 strands of wool 9 inches long. Take another strand and tie these 7 together at spaces of three-quarters of an inch. When half done pass this tying strand through edge of shawl and tie the other half. Cut these seven strands directly in the middle of the tying point, leaving the eighth strand used for tying to connect the little bunches. Make the fringe in every fifth stitch all the way round shawl, or tie in knotted fringe.

EVA M. NILES.

## Woolen and Worsted.

If a piece of woolen cloth is examined through a microscope, the two yarns—wool and worst—are found to be so crossed and so closely matted together as to be indistinguishable, but a piece of worsted material you can easily distinguish. This is due to the fact that woolen goods are made from short stapled carded wools, whose fibres in the process of carding have been made to overlap each other so as to become closely matted or felted, while worsted goods are made from long stapled wools that have been carded and then combed till the fibres lie as straight and parallel as possible.

## The Deadly Mushroom.

The sad case of that New Jersey family nearly exterminated by eating poisonous mushrooms, illustrates the terrible danger of eating fungi without thorough knowledge and constant vigilance. Joseph Franz, the head of the family, is spoken of as a well-educated Italian who was interested in scientific farming, and had cultivated mushrooms. It does not follow that he knew anything of other species than the common pasture mushroom which is cultivated. Evidently he did not. It is probable that he was a dealer in mushrooms. The reports refer to "toadstools," a popular and meaningless term, but all the signs point to amanita. The seven-year-old girl found them in the woods, and Mr. Franz did not see that they were unlike his own mushrooms. This similarity, the place where they were found, and the symptoms of the victims, all indicate this deadliest of mushrooms, for which there is no dependable antidote. As a result, father, mother and two children are dead, and two little boys are orphans.

The moral is plain. It is safer to sample the drugs in a chemist's shop without reading the labels than to pick mushrooms in wood or field without knowledge. The popular "tests" are fallacious; the instructions given in cook-books and domestic papers are not to be depended upon. One ought either to avoid wild mushrooms altogether or study the subject carefully, patiently, scientifically, from the authoritative text-books available. It is a case where a little knowledge is most dangerous, and while the number of experts grows yearly, there are widespread errors that lead to just such disasters as this. The division of fungi into "mushrooms" and poisonous "toadstools" is an example of this false knowledge.

In every schoolhouse in the land the children ought to be taught to know the fatal amanita, with its socket, the mark of the tribe. That is the starting point for any one who undertakes to gather mushrooms, and those who do not may have a chance to save the lives of others. This lesson learned, the risk is lessened a hundredfold, for it is the special mark of the white amanita that they so closely resemble the ordinary pasture mushroom. To learn all the edible varieties is the task of a specialist, but there are many kinds that, once learned, are absolutely safe—the coprinus, the elm-tree mushroom, the beefsteak mushroom, the coral mushroom. Here is variety enough without going into the woods for the boletus and russulas, some varieties of which are mildly poisonous, though not under ordinary conditions deadly like the amanita. Every one ought to know that the clumps of "toadstools" which spring up on our lawns, and turn in a day or two to a nasty inky mess, are delicious and wholesome, while the beautiful clear, white "mushrooms" that lift their graceful stems by the roadside mean a terrible death. Anyone with an hour's instruction can pick the inky mushrooms, and some of the mushrooms that grow on trees. It is better to be satisfied with a few kinds than to take chances. And no one ought to eat a dish of mushrooms that another person has gathered and cooked without the most convincing evidence of that person's expertise and caution. For if one amanita slips in there is death in the pot. Here is work for the common schools.—Springfield Republican.

## Hot-Weather Hints.

Peach ice-cream is one of the most delicious of fruit creams and is not at all hard to make. The peaches must be quite ripe and of some rather soft variety. Peel and mash the fruit and sweeten it well. Whip a quart of cream and partially freeze it before adding the peaches. When the cream is frozen to a soft mush, stir in the fruit, mix thoroughly and finish the freezing. This makes a very rich cream.

Make a water ices with twelve oranges, six lemons and the proper quantity of water. Add a quart of grape juice and sweeten rather highly. Do not freeze too hard. Another delicious food dessert is ginger mousses. Half a cupful of sugar is first boiled with a fourth of a cupful of water until it reaches the thread stage. Whip the whites of two eggs very stiff and pour the syrup over them, whipping until the two are thoroughly mixed. A cupful of whipped cream is folded into this mixture, and a cupful of preserved ginger chopped very fine is mixed in at the last moment. Place in a mould, seal carefully, and pack in ice and salt for several hours. The syrup

in which the ginger was preserved makes an excellent sauce for this mousses. Cook tiny white onions and green peas together for a very good vegetable dish. In the country where there is a garden, a pretty as well as a tasteful mixture is green peas and baby carrots cooked whole. It is difficult to buy carrots small enough for this purpose.

Salted pecans are even more delicious than salted almonds. They are expensive to buy at the confectioner's, and are rarely prepared at home for the reason that the nuts are difficult to remove from the shells without breaking the meats. It is said that this difficulty is entirely overcome by pouring boiling water over the nuts, letting the water cool on them. Crack by striking the small ends of the nuts.

A housekeeper who was closing her house for a long period packed her silver in dry flour, with the knives, forks and spoons kept together and arranged in layers, with flour between. She had tried the experiment before, and found that the silver emerged perfectly bright and unharmed.

Here is a delightful way of serving cantaloupes. Select small, firm melons and lay on ice until very cold. Cut in half and scoop out the seeds, then with a thin, sharp knife remove the melon from the rind. Cut the pulp into inch pieces, mix with bits of ice, and put back in the shells, pouring over all French dressing. Arrange the melon halves on grape leaves.

Perhaps grapefruit with French dressing has not been tried. It is exceedingly good, and has the merit also of being one of the most valuable of salads for the affections of the digestion or liver. Peel and quarter the fruit, and remove all of the white skin and the bitter portions. Cut each quarter in two pieces, across the fruit, and chill on ice. Just before serving heap on white lettuce leaves, and pour over very cold French dressing.—New York Evening Post.

## The Dread of Drafts.

Through unwarrantable fear of catching cold from every breath of air, many people house themselves, both day and night, in rooms and apartments that are little better than air-tight chambers. They force themselves to breathe an atmosphere that is deficient in oxygen and contaminated with carbonic acid and other poisonous gases. And, as a rule, they have their rooms excessively warm. A good fire in an open fireplace may be part of the comfort, but it is a source of danger, for steam radiators and other heating devices which require neither air-drafts nor fuel in no way diminish the impurity.

The effects of breathing vitiated air are especially pernicious to the health of children. They are generally manifested first in the nervous system by the production of drowsiness and mental dullness. Poisonous matters that are normally exhaled by the lungs and skin are retained in increasing quantities in the blood. They render it impure, and a form of anemia is soon produced. This becomes apparent in pallor of countenance, languor, weakness, depression and loss of appetite. The power of resisting disease is diminished and a condition of chronic invalidism is ultimately developed.

The dread of drafts now becomes justifiable, for, in the debilitated state of the system, even the currents of cold air that descend from the windows and walls increase the susceptibility to infection to such an extent that the form of disease acquired depends only upon the kind of infection that gains access to the body. No more favorable opportunity can be afforded for the growth of the germs of tuberculosis, influenza, pneumonia, or cerebrospinal meningitis. And even when germs do not enter the body, there may be a physical decline that will terminate in fatal disease of some of the vital organs.

The exclusion of fresh air is a radical mistake that should be corrected before permanent damage has been done. The practice of venting the kind of infection that during the summer season, when drafts are least noticeable. After one has become accustomed to the breathing of pure air the oppressive closeness of an unventilated room is intolerable. While this habit is being acquired, however, the body should be strengthened against sensitiveness to drafts by systematic bathing in cold water. The cold of winter then produces an agreeable stimulation of the nervous system, and a moderate draft need not be feared.—Youth's Companion.

## Domestic Hints.

**CREAM SOUPS.**  
Cream of lettuce, peas, asparagus, or even potatoes make a delicious hot-weather soup when served in cups with a spoonful of whipped cream on top. These soups are very easy to make, yet are very seldom served exactly right—neither too thick nor too thin. All cream soups have as their basis the choicest vegetable, until very soft and put through a strainer. Dilute with scalded milk, or with stock and milk, and season. At the last moment mix a roux of four and butter, and thin with a part of the soup. Stir the thinnest roux into the soup to bind, and otherwise there is danger of the vegetables separating from the soup. A cream soup should not be a thick, pasty broth, but a delicate, cream like liquid.

## GINGER ALE.

To one bottle of essence of Jamaica ginger (about half a pint) add one ounce of cream of tartar, six quarts of water, one pound of sugar and the grated peel of one lemon. Add one tablespoonful of brewer's yeast. Bottle tightly. Use in four days' time.

## NO-EGG CAKE.

One-half cup of butter and a heaping cup of sugar beaten to a cream; one cup of milk, two and a half cups of flour, a teaspoonful of cream of tartar, a half-teaspoonful of soda and a cup of raisins. Season with vanilla.

## BLACKBERRY CUSTARD.

Line a deep glass dish with dead ripe blackberries. Beat the yolks of five eggs to a cream with six tablespoonfuls of powdered sugar and stir in two cupfuls of hot milk. Cook this in a double boiler until it becomes a smooth custard. Add a dash of salt and two teaspoonfuls of lemon juice. When almost cold pour in between the berry walls and set away to harden. When ready to serve heap with whipped cream.

## VEAL TONGUE.

A veal tongue can be simmered slowly in a rich gravy, or it can be browned in the oven. A "jellied calf's tongue" is delicious. After parboiling it long enough to loosen the skin, take the tongue out of the water, skin it and cut into slices. Cover it with some stock. Season with two or three teaspoonfuls of tomato catsup, a clove, a dry onion, a good pinch of thyme and four or five pepper corns. Simmer it very gently in this gravy for about an hour, or until the meat is tender and the stock around it rich and dark. Then take it from the fire and put into a mould. Set it when it has cooled near the ice to become thoroughly cold and hard. The gravy will then have formed a stiff jelly around the meat and the whole will have taken the shape of the mould. When ready to serve turn it out and cut into slices. A veal tongue cooked in this way can also be served hot and is very good.

## Hints to Housekeepers.

Salted dish towels should not be dropped into hot soap suds until they have been washed first in lukewarm water, says an authority. The hot suds sets the dirt.

Many colds would be prevented if every cold

JUST IN FROM PARTRIDGE HUNTING.  
On the line of the Bangor & Aroostook Railroad.

were regarded as infectious, says a doctor. A person suffering from a cold should sleep alone, and if possible in a separate room. Towels, soap, etc., used by the patient should not be touched by any other person, and kissing should be absolutely prohibited.

If a Hamburg steak is served with a hot tomato sauce it will be most appetizing.

A small stiff brush such as artists use when painting in oils is excellent for brushing the dust from the crevices in velvet trimming and from between ribbon folds.

All sheets and other bedding, table linen and the greater part of the weekly washing are better for being mangled instead of ironed. The mangle is preferred by English housewives to the flatiron, because they believe that the clothes last longer and keep their color better if mangled instead of ironed.

The best plants for a window garden are those adapted to resist a dry atmosphere, high temperature and insufficient light, says the American Civic Association. These are found among tropical plants with succulent leaves with small stomata, such as palms, rubber plants, etc. Flowering plants are best introduced when about to bloom. The best windows for most plants are those with a southern exposure. Trouble is likely to come from the use of unsuitable soil. The best time to take up plants growing in the open air, for winter bloom inside, is generally the last of August. Pot them and place in a shaded place for a few days, sprinkling the foliage during the middle of the day in pleasant weather. Plants so treated will get a good start and bloom during the winter months instead of waiting until spring, as is likely to be the case with plants remaining in the ground until frost comes. Avoid drafts and the application of too much water at the root until the plants have become accustomed to their new quarters.

"If you will put a piece of common straw matting under the sheet you will find that your little one will sleep much more comfortably during these hot nights," said the physician to a mother who had consulted him about a delicate child; "and if you put another piece under your own sheet," he added, "it will do no harm. The rule works just as well for grown-ups as for children."

A novel way of cleaning wool skirts is to hang them on the clothesline and then turn the hose on them, cleaning first one side and then the other. They should be left to dry in the sun, and will need little or no pressing.

Spirits of arnica is said to be useful in bad cases of sunburn, but should not be used when there is any abrasion of the skin.

One economical woman makes correct covers of her white straw hats that are still too good to throw away, though out of style.

## The Golden Chronicle.

In Boston we have in the summer time the same experience that the seashore resorts experience in the fall and winter time. We find our streets in the residential sections crowded with wandering pets, dogs, cats and other animals that have been fed and petted in months previous wandering about homeless, fighting and soiled to death; in fact, depending on whatever they come across for their sustenance. Where an army of these pets congregates, or are helplessly thrown together, the instincts, especially of the cat, make it become wild; consequently, the animal, outside of deserving care and attention, must be cared for or it will be a dangerous animal for the community. A wild cat is an object of sympathy, but at the same time it must be cared for or else it will become a charge and a disease spreader amongst our streets. A splendid scheme our city ought to adopt is that every cat should be licensed, even at the nominal sum of ten cents, that a certain amount of jurisdiction could be had over these specimens, and if the owner does not care for them, the privilege of having them destroyed at the city's expense, thus removing any cruel act that is liable to occur if his little pet is neglected.

The two hundredth anniversary of the birth of Benjamin Franklin will occur on Jan. 17, 1906, and already much interest is manifested in preparations for observing the natal day of the great American statesman, philosopher and inventor of the Revolutionary period. Historical and patriotic societies are beginning to move in the matter of celebrating the occasion with fitting gatherings and ceremonies, and Boston, the birthplace of Franklin will not be behind hand in paying gracious tribute to his memory.

It is well known that he first saw the light of day in Milk street, opposite the southerly side of the Old South, and that he resided there for some time with his father's family. He learned the printer's trade in this city, and it was here that his first literary efforts were made before he went to Philadelphia, with very little means, to make his way in the world. His advent in the Quaker City is related in his intimate autobiography with a graphicness that leaves an indelible impression on the mind of the youthful reader. With the saving grace of common sense Franklin was liberally endowed, but while intensely practical he was not blind to the claims of patriotism, and he was among the foremost and most influential promoters of the steps that were taken by the fathers of the Republic to establish a free government in this country.

The alliance with France, after the Declaration of Independence, was due to his efforts, and in diplomacy he was not surpassed, if equaled, by any other public man of his day. He was almost entirely self-educated and his literary style in clearness and directness has been a model for many men who have arisen to literary distinction. He did not forget Boston in his will, and the schoolboys and the mechanics of this city have especial cause to remember him as a benefactor. The State and city will, no doubt, co-operate and appoint

committees that will arrange a celebration worthy of Boston, and one that will be memorable in after time. Prominent among the organizations that will recall his virtues in public assemblages will be the Franklin Typographical Society, which bears his name as one of the craft of its members, the art preservative of all arts. The Franklin family in Boston is now represented by John La Farge, who will, of course, lend his best endeavors in making the coming birthday of the American sage and patriot as great a triumph in its way as was the dedication of the Franklin statue here nearly a half century ago. And not only Boston will celebrate this anniversary, Philadelphia and other cities, which owe him an eternal debt of gratitude, will be prominent in recalling the virtues which have made him so conspicuous for all time. He had his faults, but his merits far outweigh his human shortcomings. He was not a saint, but he was a great and incorruptible patriot and philanthropist.

The Segal Cooper Company's Employees Association Cottage at Long Branch, N. J., is the only institution of its kind in the country. It contains forty rooms. It was given to the association by the firm named, and they are occupied during the summer by relays of girls from the big store of Segal Cooper & Co., each guest who is invited for a week, having a bed to herself and no room having more than two inmates. The management of the cottage is in the hands of the officers of the Employees Association, and they are instructed to provide suitable outdoor and indoor amusements for the visitors. Monday afternoon there is always a special coaching party, and on Saturday evening there is a formal dance tendered by the heads of various departments. A special beach, also, is reserved for the guests of the association. Special attention is given to the table, which fairly equals that of any homelike summer hotel. This is the seventh year that this resort has been opened and it has proved an abundant success. No great need feel that she is an object of charity, for she is a member of the society that conducts affairs at the cottage, and which includes among its members the highest salaried employees of the big Sixth avenue establishment as well as those who occupy the humblest positions. No girl is compelled to go there to pass her vacation. She can go elsewhere if she chooses, but many of the young women prefer the Long Branch retreat from the heat of the city, with the many opportunities it presents for varied amusements whatever the weather may happen to be. Miss Gertrude Books, Secretary of the Welfare Department of the National Civic Federation, in a recent speech at the cottage, said that it would be a great delight as she went about the country to see what is done to better the condition of employees to be able to refer to this beautiful institution. Her special work is in factor les and department stores, trying to interest employers to provide for the comfort of their employees. She said she intended to show some lantern slide pictures of this cottage, which she said was the finest thing of its kind in the United States.

Samuel Hecht gave an excursion to two hundred Jewish children on Thursday through invitations sent out by Max Mitchell. The party went to Waverley Oaks and had a delightful time indulging in a generous collation and enjoying many healthful outdoor games.

Mrs. E. A. Jeffers, who has been known as a generous benefactor to Methodist institutions in the West, died recently at Chautauque, N. Y., though her permanent residence was in Richmond, Ind. In her will she leaves \$60,000 to the Ohio Wesleyan University and \$35,000 to the DePaul University.

The late Mrs. Abbie A. Niles of Cambridge has left \$2000 to the Old Ladies' Home of that city. She also bequeathes \$2000 each to the Bethany Home of Boston and the Woman's Charity Hospital of Brookline.

Mrs. W. C. Boyden gave a lawn party for the hospital at Beverly at her summer home on Tuesday evening, and the receipts, which were liberal, will be of great assistance to the institution. The large attendance included both society and to townpeople, who thoroughly enjoyed the entertainment provided. The assistants of Mrs. Boyden were: Miss A. M. Kilham, Mrs. Charles P. LeFavour, Miss Susan E. Trank, Mrs. J. W. Carter, Miss Anne Davis, Miss Atilla Fraser, Miss M. E. Bradstreet, Miss Clara A. Smith, Miss Beattie L. Kilham, Charles P. LeFavour, H. F. Gough, Joseph W. Lee, Walter H. Hill, Andrew Stanley, W. V. Petrie, Charles Grubb, S. P. White, Dr. George J. Hill and F. S. Beakford.

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children was greatly benefited by the out-door bazaar held at the place of Mrs. Henry Pratt McKean at Prides Crossing on Thursday. It was a unique display of varied attractions and the most beautiful surroundings. First may be mentioned the toy and doll booth presided over by Mrs. McKean. Her associate attendants were Mrs. A. Lihgave, Mrs. George S. Winslow, Miss Mary S. Ames, Miss Houghton, Miss Mary Pranks and Miss Gibson. Mrs. Bernard Weld had charge of the booth for the sale of household articles and a thriving business in which she had the efficient help of Mrs. William H. As-

plawell, Mrs. John A. Lowell, Mrs. Henry Parsons King and Mrs. Neal Ransford. Mrs. Lester Leland sent Hamburg grapes for the flower and vegetable booth, and there were also contributions from the greenhouses of Mrs. W. B. Thomas, Mrs. R. C. Hooper, Mrs. Endicott and Mrs. John C. Phillips. All these were offered for sale by Mrs. William C. Endicott, Jr., Mrs. Charles E. Cummings, Mrs. Francis Appleton, Mrs. Mary Loring, Mrs. Tuckerman and Miss Anna Amory. At the fancy goods table were Mrs. L. Cabaret Fennel, Miss Louise Loring, Miss Mary F. Johnson, Mrs. Henry R. Heard, Miss Maud Sturges, Mrs. Gardner M. Lane and Miss Nora Insigni. Mrs. Walter Denegre had control of the grab section, which she arranged in a novel and effective manner. The restaurant was under the care of Mrs. Louis A. Shaw, assisted by Miss Olivia Thorndike, Miss Helen Thomas, Miss Mary J. Amory, Miss Mollie Elliot, Miss Lucy Blair, Miss Lelia Burnett, Miss Katherine Tread, Miss Sally Franks, Miss Beatrice Black, Miss Betty Devens, Miss Meyer and Mrs. Edward Ransford. The familiar features of a country fair were reproduced in a department where Mrs. Quincy A. Shaw directed a Pancho and Judy show and R. S. Codman was responsible for the work of an "African dodger," while his son was costumed as a juvenile clown vendor. Then there was a shooting gallery, at which R. Cateret Fennel gave people a chance to hit the mark, and there was likewise a "ring toss," managed jointly by the same gentleman and Mr. Codman. Altogether the affair was a marked social as well as financial triumph and furnished infinite amusement to the throngs that were present and also gave great satisfaction to those who so unselfishly gave their services to a notably good cause.

## Popular Science.

About seventy specimens of the extinct great auk are now preserved in museums. A specimen recently sold in London brought \$2000. In the novel method of electric welding of a Berlin firm, the heat applied is evolved by an electric arc formed between the working piece and a carbon electrode at the place where the weld is to be made. A relatively small electric generator is used with a storage battery connected up in parallel, and the carbon, fixed in the holder, is readily shifted as desired. The great heat melts both the working piece and the metal to be welded insuring an intimate juncture. Welding material is supplied until the joint or aperture is filled, and by gradually reducing the arc the weld is cooled slowly. The process supplies especially a cheap and simple means for making small repairs in large castings.

Several lead-boring insect larvae are now known. In Australia, for a number of years, perforations have been noticed in the lead covering of telegraph cables suspended from poles by twisted steel wire, and as these have given trouble in the season of thunder storms they have been attributed to electricity. An investigation recently showed holes in the lead up to a quarter of an inch in size, as many as fourteen being discovered in a length of sixteen inches. The little black insects (boreworms) were found, and have been watched at work, their purpose seeming to be to reach the tarred linen covering portions of the wire under the lead. Other insects bore through lead to escape from confinement.

The recent discovery that alloys not containing iron can be made as magnetic as iron has suggested the new theory that magnetism depends upon the grouping of the molecules. When the special magnetic structure is made better known, it is hoped to improve upon electrical magnets by adapting for them an alloy of great power, thus lightening the moving parts in electrical machines.

The new chemical automobile fire engine of Leicester, England, carries a large cylinder of carbonate of soda solution, with a bottle of sulphuric acid suspended over it, and travels thirty miles an hour. When the acid is tipped into the soda water, carbonic acid is rapidly generated, quickly giving a pressure of 100 pounds. This pressure forces the water in a four-fifths inch stream to a height of forty feet, and as the water reaches the fire the carbonic acid escapes in great volume, crowding out the air and smothering the fire. The cylinder is emptied in four minutes.

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